

HOUSES WRECKED BY THE GREAT GALE: PHOTOGRAPHS

The Daily Mirror

CERTIFIED CIRCULATION LARGER THAN ANY OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD

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One Halfpenny.

~~OUR NAVY'S VISITING CARDS~~ WHICH "THE SAUCY ARETHUSA" AND OTHER VESSELS HAVE BEEN PRESENTING TO GERMANY.

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"We have been leaving our visiting cards on the Germans at Cuxhaven." This phrase, made in a letter from a naval man, illustrates the buoyant spirits with which our men went into the enterprise. The visiting cards were the sort of shells which are shown

above. The saucy Arethusa played a fine part in the raid. Here are her officers with Commodore Tyrwhitt in the centre. H.M.S. Arethusa had, it will be seen, already added "Heligoland" to her roll of honour.

HOW OUR BRITISH SAILOR BOYS IN HOLLAND ENJOYED THEIR CHRISTMAS.

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Christmas Day in the barracks at Groningen, in Holland, where those British sailors who crossed the Dutch frontier after engaging the Germans in front of Antwerp have been interned for the duration of the war, was celebrated in a good old-fashioned British

style. After morning service, which was held in the barracks—as shown in the larger photograph—most of the boys went in for Christmas Day sports. Their favourite was charging on stilts. Afterwards came the Christmas tree.

DEATH AND RUIN IN TRACK OF GALE.

Terrible Havoc Wrought by Wind and Rain—Child Killed in Bed.

CRIPPEN SHIP ASHORE.

Extraordinary stories of the effects of Monday night's gale—the worst of the winter—came to hand yesterday.

London's gale brought death. Three houses were partially wrecked at Clapham, and Albert Wakley, aged sixty-three, was killed and three persons injured.

Storm and flood were reported from all parts of the country. Particularly severe was the storm in the Midlands and the South.

A blinding blizzard swept over Leicestershire and Rutland, where the snow had drifted to a great depth, and there were indications of an exceptionally heavy downfall.

MERSEY TRAFFIC SUSPENDED.

Following heavy rain on Sunday night, Liverpool was on Monday enveloped in one of the densest fogs known, and traffic on the River Mersey was suspended, with the exception of the ferry services.

In Birmingham and the Black Country there were heavy falls of snow during the night.

The biggest river ship ever built in North-east England, a Queen of a century occurred as a result of the extraordinary rainfall.

The River Dove became like a raging torrent and overflowed, submerging acres of agricultural land. The River Weaver also has risen, being over four feet above normal and passing over its banks.

Floods are reported from many other parts of the country. From Christchurch to Ringwood (Hampshire) the Stour and Avon have overrun their banks and thousands of acres of meadowland are submerged.

There has been a heavy fall of snow over the eastern range of the Lammermoor Hills.

The full fury of the gale was felt on the East Coast.

Considerable damage was done at Harwich. Trees, palings and hoardings were blown down and the galleys some adjoining houses fell into the sea. *Harwich Standard*'s composing room doing much damage.

In Harwich Harbour many small fishing boats were sunk, and also the examining tug Apollo. No loss of life, however, was reported.

CYCLISTS BLOWN OFF ROADS.

During the heavy gale the Margate lifeboat rescued the master of the barque Circe, and also his wife and the mate.

There were two other barges in difficulties, one of which sank, but the name is unknown, and nothing is known as to the fate of the crew. It is supposed the other barge succeeded in getting away.

At Brighton, Hastings and Eastbourne shop windows were blown in, chimney stacks and tiles were scattered in all directions and trees were uprooted. In many places cyclists and their machines were blown off the roads, and a provision van was blown over at Hove.

A terrible sea rage off Dover and broke over the cliffs.

Men ashore from their ships were unable to return to their boats, the sea rendering the passage too dangerous.

The obsolete steamer Montrose, in which Crippen left England, only to be caught before he landed in Canada, was blown out of Dover Harbour.

There was not a soul on board her, but a party from a Downs patrol boat went out to her. When they reached her they found she had no anchors.

They drifted on to the Goodwin Sands and were rescued by the Deal lifeboat. The vessel was yesterday still on the sands.

BOY KILLED IN BED.

Much havoc was wrought in Chatham, Gillingham and the surrounding districts.

One fatality is reported, the victim being a little boy named Leslie Smithson, six years of age, whose father is a sergeant in the Royal Engineers serving in the Expeditionary Force.

The boy was in bed with a cold, and, aged four years, when a chimney-pot blew off and crashed through the bedroom.

The little girl when extricated was only slightly injured, but the boy was dead.

The Gillingham football stand was blown down.

The storm resulted in an extraordinary rise in the upper reaches of the River Tees.

An unusually heavy rainfall, followed by snow, occurred in Bath, and in consequence the River Avon rose with alarming rapidity, and is now about 9ft. above the normal level, and still rising.

Thousands of acres in Somerset and Wiltshire are submerged, and the basements of many low-lying houses in Bath have been inundated.

The River Teme and Vyrnwy are flooded from Bishop's Stortford to Totonham, and at places the railway lines are submerged.

At the Central Telegraph Office in London yesterday *The Daily Mirror* was asked to warn the public of "very heavy telegraphic delay everywhere throughout the country, and to Ireland, Scotland and the Continent."

The telephone connection between London and Edinburgh and Glasgow was altogether impossible yesterday.

There is also great delay between London and the south coast ports.

Telephone and telegraph wires are down throughout the Peak district of Derbyshire. Gangs of men were yesterday working to restore the communications.

EAGER TO FIGHT FOR US.

4,000 Italians Who Came from America to Join French Army.

ON SIDE OF LIBERTY.

"It is in the English Army and for England that we wish to fight. Over 2,000 trained Italian soldiers would enlist in the British Army next week if they could be accepted," said a well-known London Italian to *The Daily Mirror*. "A number who found this impossible have gone out and joined the French Army."

"It is natural that we should wish to fight against the Austrians. And, now that Turkey has come into the war, we should like to meet them again. Many of us have recollections of Trieste, which we would like to avenge."

Many hundreds of Italians who took part in the Trieste campaign are resident in England. They are fit, seasoned soldiers.

Already a great number of Italians—over 14,000, as a matter of fact—are fighting in the French Army. Four thousand of them came from America; there were 3,000 in France when the war broke out, and already 7,000 have joined the French forces from Italy.

We who are here as guests of Britain wish to show our affection and devotion to the country of our adoption. Next to serving for Italy we would soonest fight for Britain."

There has, of course, been considerable recruiting, and at the Italian Working Men's Club in Clerkenwell some 750 men have joined and gone to France in three batches of 350, 250 and 150 men. There are now about forty men en route to Italy to go with the next batch.

"We wish," said *The Daily Mirror*'s informant, "to see Italian soil freed from the grip of the conqueror, and until Trieste and the Trentino are Italian again there are some of us who will not rest. We feel the same about it as the French do about Alsace-Lorraine."

RUSH FOR BARGAINS.

Crowds of Women Shoppers at the First Winter Sales.

The first spring hat of the next season appeared in a shop window in the West End of London yesterday. It was a pale yellow straw trimmed with stiff silk bows and was distinctly Early Victorian.

In the chill wind of yesterday many women thronged to the shops looking for bargains, for many of the winter sales have now begun.

"We must clear out our stock," *The Daily Mirror* was told in one of the numerous gown showrooms of Dury and Toms, "and never were gowns, costumes and coats cheaper."

An evening gown can be bought for £1, a handsome coat worth five and a half guineas for 49s. 6d.; six guineas for coats for four guineas, and nap cloth coats of the newest shape and belted for 35s. 11d.

At one establishment a big woolly dressing-gown of navy-blue with white facings and a sash belt was offered for 2s. 11d.

Other wonderful bargains noticed were:—English wet cloth, double width, a yard... 6s. 6d. Silk stockings with lisle feet, a pair... 1s. 6d. Silk broches in all kinds of pretty colours, double width... 1s. 6d.

Women yesterday were even buying summer dresses, especially cut little model gowns.

TREATED LIKE PIGS.

J. Hesman Bläss, an Austrian prisoner of war interred in the Isle of Man, pleaded guilty yesterday morning, before a military court held at Douglas, to having attempted to communicate with an alien enemy by means of a letter written in German.

In his letter Bläss said the prisoners were treated in camp like pigs, and he also made allegations as to the bad quality of the food and sleeping accommodation.

The sentence will be submitted for confirmation.

DEATH LURKING IN WAVES

Thrills of Flushing Passengers in Steamer Which Dodges Mine Fields.

"ROAD CLEAR" SIGNAL.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

FLUSHING, Dec. 28.—When travellers arrive here from England there is an immediate rush for the telegraph office. "All well—arrived safely," is the usual message they send to their friends.

Since the war began the journey from London to Flushing has become to most people's minds a romantic and perilous adventure. During the voyage the word "mines" is strictly taboo, but the thought of them is ever present with the passengers.

The adventure begins at Victoria Station about five o'clock any afternoon. There is usually a crowd of sightseers to watch the Flushing-bound travellers disappear into the mysterious curtained doorway, where they are questioned and their luggage examined. One passes in the doorway amid the keen scrutiny of plain clothes detectives.

At Folkestone begins the second inspection. The white card, which is given to every passenger, has been filled up, and one is instructed to keep this card with one's passport in readiness. Then everybody is formed up in a long queue.

The third inspection follows in the room where half a dozen or more officials are seated. Men and women from all corners of the earth are in the queue.

The second "inquisition" over, passengers are conducted to the boat, which, in the grey dusk, creeps along the Folkestone harbour.

A few miles from the shore the ship slows down. All around are curious little black Admiralty tugs and trawlers, each fitted with wireless, and from one of the vessels a naval officer can be seen waving his hand.

We steam past the vessel at snail's pace, the officer still swinging his arm like a policeman allowing traffic to pass. He is showing us the way and signifying that there is a clear "road" ahead. Close by are the minefields.

Just outside Flushing we pass two Dutch warships, which are on their way to the Dutch colonies.

At last the vessel draws alongside the quay—the adventure is at an end, the whole journey from Victoria having taken over twenty hours.

ELOQUENT "TOMMY."

Stirring Stories from the Battlefield Which Bring Many Recruits.

Recruiting is steady, if not booming, and for recruitment is of a more special character than general. Men who have been home from the front on furlough have done something to give them a fillip.

They have for the most part looked so well and so cheerful that they have by their very cleanliness induced many friends to join up.

The average "Tommy" has a certain power of expression which is all his own and his stories of bayonet charges and so on in the trenches of existing days in France generally have been listened to open-mouthed.

Good-class men are joining the special departments of the Army—transport drivers, Army pay department, Army Service Corps, Army clerks (shorthand and typists), farriers, Army veterinary corps, and so on.

There is still room for the veterans. Time-expired men are again called for drill, signalling and musketry instructors.

Meanwhile there are still a few vacancies in the 2nd Sportsmen's Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, who can enlist at the Hotel Cecil, and the Reserve Battalion of the 6th City of London Rifles (Territorials) have a few vacancies for men of 5ft. 5in. The headquarters are at Paddington.

Although well over a million men have enlisted in the Regulars, Kitchener's Army and Territorials since the war began, there are still many more wanted. The full million of Kitchener's Army is not yet quite complete, and then another half-million will be called for.

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BÜHLERN-SPANDAU

GERMANY

XMAS 1914.

WISHING YOU A HAPPY XMAS

AND A BRIGHTER NEW YEAR

FROM
H. Solloway.

BRITISH CIVIL PRISONER OF WAR

A Christmas card sent by a British prisoner of war now in Germany to friends in England. What do the Germans think of the phrase, "and a brighter New Year"?

VERDICT OF 'GUILTY' IN ATROCITY CASE.

Girl Who Forged Letters Is Recommended to Mercy.

DISCHARGED BY JUDGE.

With a verdict of "Guilty" the trial of the eighteen-year-old Dumfries girl named Kate Hume, charged with fabricating the story of her sister's death as a result of mutilations by Germans, concluded yesterday in the High Court of Edinburgh.

The jury recommended the girl for mercy, and the Judge said that, seeing she had been in prison for three months, he would order her release.

The charge against the girl was based on two letters purporting to come from Germany. One letter described the death of Nurse Grace Hume in hospital from terrible injuries "inflicted by Germans." Another letter purported to be Grace's dying message to her friends.

The whole story was untrue. On Monday afternoon she gave evidence admitting she wrote the letters, but explaining that she had worked herself into the belief that what she wrote was true.

The defence was a denial of criminal intent and a plea that the girl was suffering from hysteria at the time the letters were written.

AN ABNORMAL MIND?

When the trial was resumed yesterday the Lord Advocate addressed the jury for the prosecution, the calling of evidence having been completed the previous day.

He said three questions arose for consideration:—(1) Did the accused do the things it was alleged she did? (2) Was she responsible for her actions while she did them? (3) Was it her intention to alarm and annoy the public, and in particular her father and stepmother?

With regard to the first, counsel submitted there could not be the least doubt that accused wrote and uttered the letters and forged the signature to both.

As to whether she was so hysterical as not to be responsible for her action, he urged that nothing more or less than was sufficient as an answer to a criminal charge.

Accused, however, had shown mental alertness, intelligence, quickness, capacity, will power and determination.

Her appearance when in the witness-box demonstrated that she had a normal and not an abnormal mind.

It would be dangerous if it went forth that the mere fact of a person suffering from hysteria was the answer to a charge of this grave nature.

The intention to alarm the public, and particularly the father and stepmother, continued counsel, was abundantly proved, and people who read the abominable and revolting story were shocked and horrified by it.

ACCUSED IN TEARS.

A pathetic scene occurred when Mr. Wilson, K.C., in his speech for the defence, spoke of the way in which the accused had been led by the loss of her brother in the Titanic.

This reference by counsel deeply affected the prisoner, who burst into tears in her handkerchief and wept convulsively.

Mr. Wilson submitted that the prosecution had broken down, as nothing in the way of criminal intentions had been proved.

It was preposterous, he said, to regard this girl as a criminal.

There were clear indications that she was abnormal.

It was clear that her intention was to alarm her father and stepmother was negatived by the fact that the letters were in the handwriting of the prisoner, and the truth or falsity of them could easily have been ascertained.

There was no crime, he contended, because there could not be any felonious intention.

To say the girl had alarmed the public was a fantastic distortion of facts.

"ESCAPED" GERMAN FOUND IN GAOL.

Where could John Jergen Kühr, the flat-footed legged German, who spoke but imperfect English, have got to? was the question asked when it was learnt that he had escaped from Newgate Gaol.

He had not got far. In fact he never left the prison, and was found yesterday in a place of concealment.

The official notice, which pointed out the physical imperfections mentioned, described him as "an inventor of considerable attainments."

RACE TRAIN MURDER CHARGE.

Three men appeared in the dock at the South-Western Police Court yesterday in connection with the Windsor race train tragedy.

They were James O'Neill, Alfred Catling and Edward Morgan, who they were charged with the murder of Alfred Morton, who died from stabs in the abdomen.

James was discharged, counsel stating that he evidently had nothing to do with the man's death, and the other two prisoners were remanded.

Extensions of licences have been granted to several of the large West End hotels in connection with the New Year's Eve festival.

ALLIES STEADILY PUSHING THEIR WAY ALONG THE BELGIAN COAST

Village of St. Georges,
Near Nieuport, Taken
by Storm.

LOST TRENCHES RETAKEN IN FIERCE FIGHTS.

Germans Driven Out of Positions
They Had Captured After
Three Counter-Attacks.

SAILORS' STORIES OF THE CUXHAVEN RAID.

The news from the front is distinctly good. Although the storm on Monday prevented operations on the greater part of the front that day, yesterday, however, was marked by great activity.

The Allies captured the village of St. Georges and have taken up their position there.

For the past few days the Allies have been progressing towards this point, which is near Nieuport.

Bit by bit, in "nibbles" as it were, Belgium is being recovered and the advance of the Allies, if slow, is very sure.

In Upper Alsace the French continue to do well. They have invested the village of Steinbach, and after a fierce battle secured the ruins of a castle north-west of the village.

Although there is yet no confirmation of the recent report that the Germans had been forced to evacuate Roulers, yesterday's messages from Amsterdam clearly show that the Allies are making marked progress towards that town.

HOT FIGHTS FOR TRENCHES NEAR A REDOUBT.

Germans driven Out of Position After Three Successive Counter Attacks.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—The following official communiqué was issued this afternoon:

In Belgium the village of St. Georges was carried by our troops which established themselves there.

From the Lys to the Somme the enemy delivered a somewhat violent bombardment on our positions.

Calm prevails in the region of Erbelle, Saint Arvin, Le Chesnoy and Poischoir, north-west of Roulers.

On the front between the Somme and the Argonne we gained a little ground, in the Argonne, in the Bois de la Grange, in the Bois Bolante and the Bois Courte Chaussee.

On the heights of the Meuse several German counter-attacks were repulsed.

In the Bois le Bouchot, north-west of Troyon, the enemy which carried our trenches near the redoubt of the Bois Brule, west of Apremont, was driven out of them after three successive counter-attacks.

In Upper Alsace we are closely investing Steinbach, following on a violent action, and we have seized the ruins of the chateau north west of the village.—Reuter.

Monday night's French communiqué which did not mention the results of fighting to the storm, was, says Reuter, as follows:

Throughout the day a violent storm prevented operations along the greater part of the front. It is reported, however, that we made some progress in the Argonne.

ADVANCE ON ROULERS.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 29.—A correspondent of the *telegraaf* states that, although Roulers has not been taken, the Germans believe the Allies are certainly making progress towards that town.

The Germans have ordered the inhabitants of Sleyhaege to clear out of the place.

Sleyhaege is a hamlet where the roads from Ypres, Bruges and Roulers meet. It lies four kilometres north-west of Roulers, and is threatened by the Allies' artillery.

The village of Steenkerke, three kilometres nearer to Diest, is in the hands of the Germans, but it lies in the battle area. Oostnieuwerkerke has also been evacuated under the same circumstances as Sleyhaege.

The inhabitants of these and other villages are now in Roulers, Iseghem and other places behind the front.

The Germans are using the stones and beams of destroyed houses for repairing the roads.—Central News.

BELGIANS PLAY FOOTBALL

(From Our Special Correspondent)

BELGIUM, Dec. 28.—Feeling that they are waging a victorious war, the soldiers of the

Allies in the trenches in Belgium are as happy as can be. And none are happier than the Belgians.

The British soldiers were hugely delighted with their Christmas presents from the homeland, and in spite of the rigours of the weather and the fact that there was no break in the war, they celebrated their Christmas as much as possible in the way they could at home.

King Albert sent gifts of twenty-five francs to every one of his soldiers, and it is said that one out of every packet will be retained as a souvenir of the Christmastide spent in the trenches.

The Belgian soldiers have just one little evening. They see Thomas Atkins kicking a football about in his irresponsible spare moments, and they wish to imitate him. But the best thing we can manage is a ball of paper tied up with string. They would dearly like some real footballs.

It is now felt that the Germans are held fast in Flanders.

"THE BRITISH NAVY ONCE MORE ON TOP."

Zeppelins Prove Their Uselessness During the Air Raid on Cuxhaven.

HARWICH, Dec. 28.—Information in Harwich is to the effect that the bombs dropped by British seaplanes on Cuxhaven on Christmas Day must have caused damage.

It is confidently believed that the gasworks were hit, and that some injury was done to military fortifications.

The ease with which the cruisers Arethusa and Undaunted put to flight two Zeppelins is taken as evidence that airship assaults do not possess the value that the enemy appear to have attributed to them as a factor in naval fighting.

The British cruisers fired many shots at the airships, and it is reported that portions of the undercarriages were struck.

It is confirmed here that some of our ships had narrow escapes from bombs, but, as sailors have since remarked, "a miss is as good as a mile."

"I don't think very much of the German bomb-droppers as fancy shots," said another blimp.

"I assumed that you were perfectly safe so long as they were aiming at you, and the great fear was that you might be hit by a shot intended for another object some distance away."

The submarine attack on our ships was rendered abortive by clever seamanship, and, though torpedoes were fired again and again, none found their mark."

All the men who took part in the battle agreed that the British Navy once more came out on top.

The only tinge of regret is caused by the uncertainty as to the fate of Flight Commander Hewlett.

"DARING ACHIEVEMENT."

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The *Tribune*, in a leading article to-day, says:

"A daring expedition far across the North Sea to the very heart of Germany's best defended coast line is a most brilliant and daring achievement, and puts the Hartlepool bombardment in the shade as a feat of arms."

"It also appears to have been free from the brutal assault on non-combatants which marked the German raid."—Reuter.

The *New York Times*, four U.S. officers who have been attached to the cruiser Tennessee declared in an interview that British military airmen were the best in Europe.

The French were brilliant as individuals, they declared, but as a military unit the British were the most efficient.—Reuter.

"COVERED WITH INFAMY BY THE KAISER."

German Socialists' Call to the World to Save Germany from Prussian Militarism.

A stern indictment of the Kaiser and his "perjured statesmen" as enemies of mankind has been published as a New Year appeal to Socialists in Europe and America by the committee of the German Humanity League. The appeal, says the Exchange, is as follows:

Dear Comrades, On the eve of the New Year, when the memory of foul and ruthless crimes, unparalleled even in the massacre rolls of our nation's infamous accomplices at Constantinople, we appeal to our brethren on the Continent of Europe and in the United States not to hide themselves behind the screen of neutrality.

We are face to face with the enemies of mankind. The German nation, driven into a mad war by the Kaiser, has alienated, entreated and betrayed by perjured statesmen in the Reichstag and by false records circulated in every State in order to deceive our compatriots, has recklessly hurled itself blindfolded against forces which, sustained by indisputable moral considerations, show no signs of weakening in their determination to expel from Belgium the troops which have covered her habitations with blood and irreparably injured an innocent nation our rulers had sworn to protect.

We ask you to remember that the territory of no German State has been menaced by the Allies, who are lawfully and honourably defending the plain rights of the cruelly outraged Belgians and their wives, young children and silent spectators of these stupendous crimes?

Are you for ever to be dumb, in view of the awful scenes of carnage in Flanders in Brabant, in Alsace and in Lorraine? Will you stand by while the maiming and slaughter of innocent, unarmed old men, women, children and infants at the breast that the Kaiser has covered our nation with imperishable infamy? Will you let us down to the sarcasm of the previous lives of the toilers and wage earners in a devilish campaign, barbarous in its methods upon sea as upon land?

NATION DISGRACED.

We know from authentic intelligence that a restless, indignant and deceived democracy now undergoing privations and nursing its griefs cannot be restrained by force from active protest, and we most earnestly appeal to every comrade, to every man, woman and child, to maintain the international obligations to strive his utmost to crush and sweep away for ever the domination of Prussian militarism within Germany, which by its conspiracy against humanity has disgraced and humiliated our nation in the eyes of the civilised world.

(Signed) Karl Bernstein, Jacob Mamelsdorf, Ernst Gott, Conrad Schwabe, Gustav Ochs, Ernst Schuster, Franz Gausen, Albrecht Zettel, Rotterdam, December 23.

GERMAN RUSE FAILS.

Lieutenant H. G. Winton, 2nd Suffolk Regiment, who was recently promoted from the ranks for gallantry on the battlefield, describes in a letter home a German ruse which failed.

"My men noticed some men in khaki digging holes in a hedge some distance in front of us, so I ordered a few shots to be fired into them," he writes.

"Instantly about two dozen Germans dressed in khaki stood up with their hands up to surrender; so we sent two patrols along old trenches to fetch them in."

"We soon found out their ruse. They thought that we should all go out to fetch them in, and then we could surround them and capture over a hundred of which they had concealed in the wood and would have retaken the trenches."

"When they saw that we were not to be 'had' the party in the wood fired on our patrols."

"Instantly we put volleys into them

AUSTRIANS IN FLIGHT OVER THE MOUNTAINS.

Defeated Army Declines Battle and Struggles Through Passes of the Carpathians.

15,000 PRISONERS TAKEN.

Is the Austrian Army nearing the end of its glorious career?

What appears to be a shattering blow has been delivered against it by the Russians. The Austrian troops are now in disorderly flight through the passes of the Carpathian mountains. They are surrendering by thousands, and a Petrograd telegram declares that the dissolution of the Austrian Army is at hand.

Very significant are the admissions made in the Austrian official communiqué. This states that the Austrians declined battle with the Russians, and withdrew to positions nearer to the ridge of the Carpathians.

Between December 19 and 22 the Russians announced that they captured 15,000 prisoners and forty machine guns.

In Poland the Germans continue to hurl themselves against the impregnable Russian wall of steel, incurring heavy losses without compensating gains.

DRIVEN ACROSS RIVER.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 28.—A dispatch from the Headquarters Staff of the Commander-in-Chief states:

Between the Lower Vistula and the Pilitsa there have been no engagements of importance. Partial attacks by the Germans were repulsed.

The Germans had particularly heavy losses during their attack to the south-east of Skierwitz.

Between the Pilitsa and the Upper Vistula the enemy is acting on the defensive. Russian troops took the village of Tchitinsk.

The left bank of the Nida is definitely cleared of the enemy.

South of the Upper Vistula, on the line Piotravetz-Bietz, operations continue to develop favourably for the Russians.

From December 18 to 26 we have captured 200 officers, 15,000 men and forty machine guns.

DISORDERLY FLIGHT.

The retirement of the enemy from the Dukla Pass and on the Lisko roads is becoming disordered in character.

On December 26 in this district the Russians made 5,000 prisoners.

The operations associated with the transport of troops from the neighbourhood of Czestochowa towards the Carpathians were met by a Russian counter-manceuvre, and ended in the failure of the enemy's attempt.—Central News.

TURKS' HEAVY LOSSES.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 29.—The following communiqué from the Headquarters of the Army in the Caucasus is published here to-day:

In the direction of Olti our troops, having crossed the River Lainsin, checked the progress of large Turkish forces.

In the region of Iargamys the fighting is developing.

On the 26th inst., in the region of Dutah, our advance culminated in the occupation of the line Khamour-Aragaz. The Turks retired with heavy losses, and 1,000 of their number were captured.

On the other front there is no change.

The above relates to the operations of the Russian troops against the Turks in Eastern Anatolia.

Fighting seems to be taking place in two zones over a wide front in the Olti region, north-east of Erzerum, and in the Alashgurd district, south-east of Erzerum.—Reuter.

BATTLE DECLINED.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 28 (delayed in transmission).—An official communiqué issued in Vienna at noon to-day says:

North of the Dukla Pass our troops declined an attack by the Russians, and are now in positions nearer to the ridge of the Carpathians.

Between the Bistritz and the Olti, located in the district north-east of Zalizkiv, very fierce hostile attacks were repelled. Otherwise nothing important has occurred on the north-eastern front.

In the south, except for some skirmishing on the frontier, all was quiet. The Serbians have again blown up the bridge over the Danube at Semlin.—Reuter.

NEARING THE END."

PETROGRAD, Dec. 29.—It is possible to gather from the last official dispatch that the Austrian Army is nearing dissolution.

It is surrendering prisoners in thousands and is struggling in disorderly fashion through the Carpathian passes.

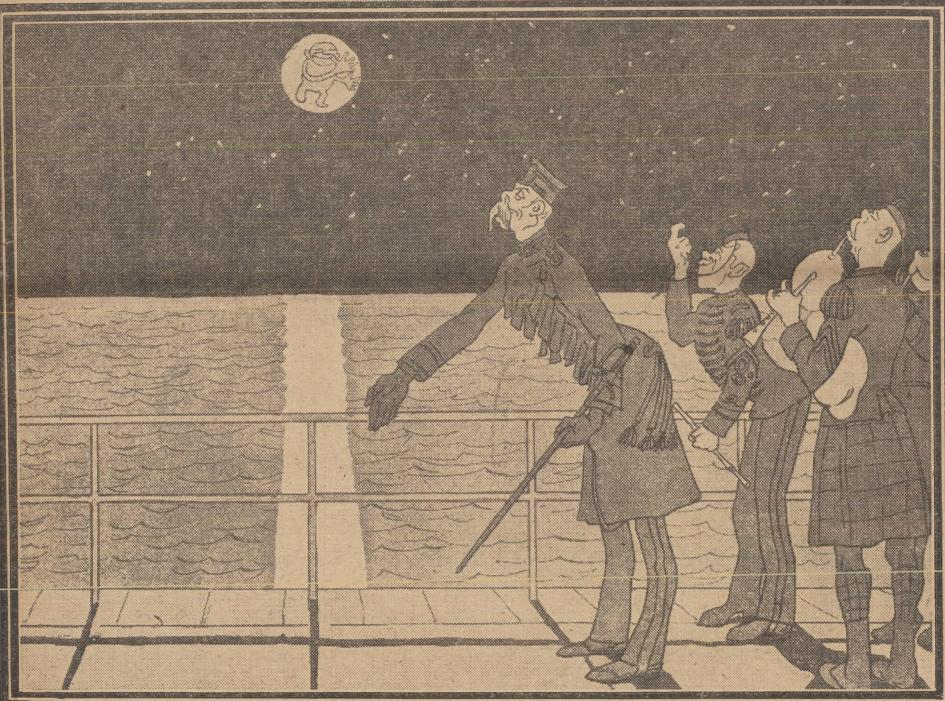
The Russians are now holding the Germans in check on the Lower Vistula and the Pilitsa. So far the Germans have shattered their armies in vain against the solid wall of the Russian troops and have lost many thousands in killed and wounded.—Central News.



In the British trenches at the front. A quiet moment, when everybody turned their backs on the enemy and faced the camera.

BRITAIN WOOING THE MAN IN THE MOON.

P. 1100 F



A REAL FAIRY QUEEN.

P. 1682



Little Miss Lennie Deane, the charming child actress and dancer, who is the Fairy Queen in the Aldwych Theatre pantomime, "Cinderella."

M.P. DEAD.

P. 1352



Colonel Harrison Broadley, Unionist M.P. for Howden, died suddenly yesterday.

NEW MEMBER.

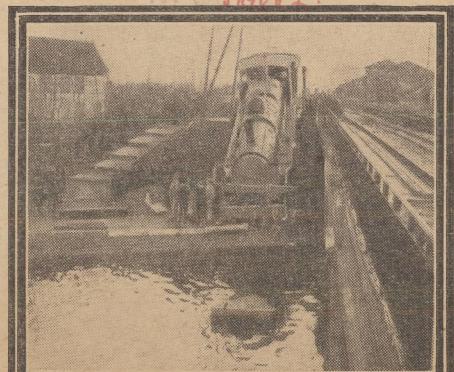
P. 922 B



Mr. W. C. Anderson, who has been elected as Labour M.P. for Attercliffe, Sheffield.

TRAIN AT THE WATER JUMP.

P. 1108 F



This ammunition train went in for a little steeplechasing, and made a highly unsuccessful attempt to take a water jump in the shape of a canal.

WHITELEYS
WINTER SALE
COMMENCES TO-DAY
PRESENT FASHIONS
IN EVERY DEPARTMENT AT
REDUCED PRICES



Lot 4. Girls' Frocks, in Stripe, Plaid, or Check materials. Sizes 4 to 26 in.
Sale Price 12/- each.

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Daily Mirror

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1914.

PLODDING ON.

REUMOURS SEEM to have reached Berlin, in the early weeks of the war, to the effect that London was in flames, Paris occupied, Brussels burnt, the Russians buried, the Serbians exterminated: no doubt these optimistic accounts (from the Berlin point of view) hugely encouraged—and perhaps still do encourage—the blustering militarists who now roam those streets, from morn to night, seeking what news they may devour. Such reports always cheer the lookers-on in war time; though hitherto in London we have not shown quite the same disposition to swallow them as has been displayed in Germany. Let us, too, however, be careful of the tendency to believe in any sudden collapse of the war on account of opinions heard or written of the state of mind in the countries most affected.

We shall be told, one morning, that Berlin is secretly anxious, that dissatisfaction is being expressed by riots, that Bavaria is dissociated from Prussia, that nobody has any money left in Germany, that financial collapse or food shortage is imminent; and so on. Similarly, from Austria will come—has come, indeed—the news or the rumour that everybody there is in despair, that Hungary is going to separate, that Count Tisza and Count Berchtold are repentant of their sins, that famine threatens Vienna. Immediately the mind conceives a sudden crashing in of the roof of the slowly-burnt house. Up leap the flames, the idiot diplomats clearly seen roasting amongst them; on rush the Allies; all is over; peace is at hand.

Unfortunately these rumours of difficulties abroad are like little side-winds and negligible currents having no real importance for the general movement going steadily on. The main physiognomy of the huge prolonged battle is not this—not flames leaping up and Germany and Austria collapsing, but, far rather and more generally, the ceaseless plod, plod of a sort of slow-moving and constantly-retreating siege, in which we on our side, by sheer weight and ramming power, have day by day monotonously to wear down the others. For this slow pressure every ship in our Navy and every man in our new Army are wanted. Slowly the weight must be increased, week by week. Financial pressure, food difficulties, producing in turn political troubles over there—these may tell in the end. But in any event, though important, they can but be contributory causes. We shall do well to remember the siege, which can be won only by increased weight, whenever we hear or read that Vienna has no morning rolls, that people are weeping in the Sieges Allee of Berlin—weeping in front of those statues, that Count Tisza accounts the nerve strain too much for him, or that the Kaiser has gone mad. These things don't matter. They matter scarcely any more than, for us, did the imaginary burning of London. They are at the best possibilities. Meanwhile all about us is the visible reality of the siege.

W. M.

AT DOVER.

The sea is calm to-night.
The tide is full, the moon lies fair
Upon the Straits;—on the French coast, the light
Gleams, and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,
Greenish with the sunset, and the long day.
Come to the window, sweet is the night air!
Only, from the long line of spray
Where the ebb meets the moon-blanch'd sand,
Lies the green gulf, with the gray rocks round,
Of pebbles which the waves suck back, and fling,
At their return, up the high strand.
Begin, and cease, and then again begin,
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring
The eternal note of sadness in.

W. M.

LOOKING THROUGH "THE MIRROR."

RUMOURISM.

THE RUMOURIST is already meeting with his doom, for people are refusing to believe him, and insist upon seeing official news in black and white.

After all, I think the rumourist is more to be pitied than blamed. It is a kind of disease with him, and he is only happy when making, or trying to make, someone's flesh creep. Facts.

SOCIAL SUPERIORITY.

SNOBBERY IS ONE of the banes of this country, particularly amongst women. Hence we get such opinions as those of some of your correspondents about the social superiority of

"typists" would be better employed and more in their "proper" sphere as domestics. It is also quite palpable that a few domestic servants of various grades, employed sometimes by inferior masters and mistresses, are out of their sphere, and should be more intelligently occupied.

There is a queer "mix up" nowadays in the various vocations of life, probably owing to the better free education, of which the lower middle classes take full advantage.

This causes the uncertainty your correspondents note in the matter of "class."

There are many gentlewomen employed as typists, etc., shopgirls, and even as domestic servants, owing, perhaps, to unfortunate circumstances, and it is exceedingly narrow

BRITAIN AT WAR.

Some Experiences with Our Belgian Guests in London.

PAST AND FUTURE.

MUCH MAY BE done to help the brave Belgians, but I sometimes doubt whether our own poor efforts are of much avail.

Two friends of mine and I have had the ability of a family of four, and as none of us is able to take them into her house we have hired a furnished flat for them. They are exceedingly kind and most grateful—too grateful—for our small help, but I must say they seem to do nothing but compare conditions of life here with those at home, to the disadvantage of London.

The phrase we seem to hear most often is: "Oh, but, madame, at home we do not do this or eat that; we do so-and-so and so-and-so."

I dare say their way is better, but one thinks they might be happier if they were used to our way for a little.

What our Belgian guests chiefly need in their trouble is work. They want something to absorb them and to take their minds off the past and its sadness. Few of them seem to realize that better days are coming, and I try to get them to think about those coming times. C. H. E. Mansfield-place, S.W.

NO CRITICISM.

"W. M.'s" NERVOUSNESS about the effect of publishing on over-critical Belgians didn't trouble us much. The two Belgians who have been with us since the middle of October seemed to enjoy the fare we gave them very much.

There were no critics here such a good sense of fraternity! It would have done some of your doubting correspondents good to see the cordiality between people once strangers, now united by a common sympathy. The Belgians have much to teach us, and I am sure we have a great deal to learn from them. E. F. M. Wimbleton.

A CHANCE TO LEARN.

A LETTER by one of your correspondents reveals only too clearly how miserably deficient we are in French in this country.

One meets a good many people who read or understand French, but so very few seem to speak it. It is a chief difficulty with the Belgians.

As far as I can see, however, it is the Belgians who make efforts to learn English—not we who learn French from them. Yet now we have a chance of remedying our deficiency in this respect.

IGNORANT BUT ASHAMED.
Hampstead.

GERMAN METHODS.

IN ANSWER to "V. D. F." I adhere to my statement that the Germans have captured our trade by the use of low down methods that a Britisher would scorn to use.

As an example, I might mention that German goods have been deliberately passed off as British. German cutlery sold with Sheffield marks, and German glue sold on a French sample. These are a few instances which have come to my knowledge, but they are enough to prove that the German in war and peace is the same—dishonest and without scruple.

IN MY GARDEN.

Dec. 29.—During the winter months much may be done to improve the condition of the soil. The most difficult soil to deal with is, perhaps, that of a clayey nature.

During dry, open weather it should be deeply dug and mixed with plenty of strawy and sandy material, ashes from the garden fire and leaf mould. It is wise to leave the surface very rough until the spring comes—indeed, it is best to set it up in ridges. Frost and rain will then powder it down.

E. F. T.

BIG WILLIE AS VENTRILOQUIST ENTERTAINER.



Clown Prince, like a stuff doll, echoes what Kaiser says. Only, sometimes he makes a bad mistake and lets out something he should have suppressed and annoys Kaiser papa.—(By Mr. W. K. Hazeley.)

typists and lots of other women workers over domestic servants, who are generally much more useful people.

As a matter of fact, women of good birth, but poor, will more and more tend to go into domestic service, in view of the great demand for it. This is good news, and can be professed by an excellent cook or a lady nurse. Meanwhile the snobs can hug to themselves their sense of superiority as typists or "secretaries" or people who teach the piano.

I hope the war will bring some common sense into our snobbishness. S. C.

WHAT UTTER nonsense! Isn't it plain that any person employed by another person or persons in any position is a servant of the employer? Cannot "B." and "Shorthand Typist" find anything better to do than try to distinguish between "servant" and "typist"? It is taken for granted that many so-called

minded to dub any of these, collectively, as inferior, though some may be so, individually.

K. F. M.

"Daily Mirror Reflections of War and Peace," being Vol. VIII. of Mr. Hazeley's cartoons, is just out. It contains more than 100 of the best of them, including many of the series of Big and Little Willies. It costs 6d. net, postage 2d. There could be no better present for people at home or at the front.

A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.

Silence is the ambrosial night in the inter-course of friends, in which their sincerity is recruited and takes deeper root. The language of friends is not words, but meanings. It is an intelligence above language.—Thoreau.

ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF THEM.

942 B



Just eighteen days before this photograph was taken this brave Siberian regiment was composed of 4,000 men and seventy-two officers. After little more than a fortnight's fighting these were all the officers left.—(Daily Mirror photograph.)

A GREAT RAILWAY AFTER BEING BOMBARDED.

9.11910 D



This photograph shows the destruction of the main Russian railway line Kalich-Lodz-Warsaw. Everything has been destroyed by the enemy's guns and by fire. In the background to the left Russian soldiers are to be seen moving among the ruins.

LIFEBOAT DISASTER AT PETERHEAD.

9.609



The Peterhead lifeboat, The Alexander Tulloch, was wrecked while attempting to rescue the crew of the Hull trawler Tomtit. Three of the lifeboatmen lost their lives a few yards from the shore. The photograph shows the wrecked lifeboat.

THE LAST VOYAGE OF ADMIRAL VON SPEE.

P. 16247

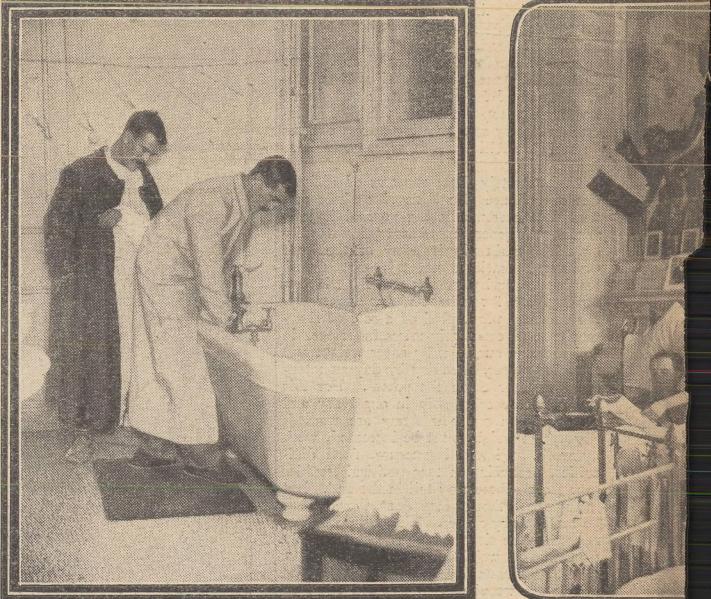


Admiral von Spee's last smile.

Admiral von Spee's doomed German fleet in the harbour at Valparaiso just before they went out on their last voyage to be sunk by Admiral Sturdee's British squadron. The

WOUNDED "TOMMIES" LEAD THE LIFE OF THE

9.11910 W



An orderly prepares his bath in a luxurious bathroom.

A nice "cosy"

Our wounded soldiers are for once in a way leading the life of millionaires in a millionaire's hotel, the Astoria, Paris, which has in the past been the Parisian quarters of the world's

GERMAN'S ESCAPE.

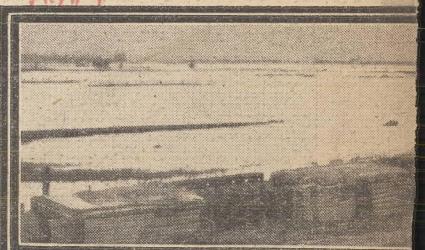
P. 16823



John Jurgen Kuhr, the German who escaped from Newcastle Gaol. He was recaptured on the prison premises.

ENTRENCHED AT WATER'S END.

9.11911 F



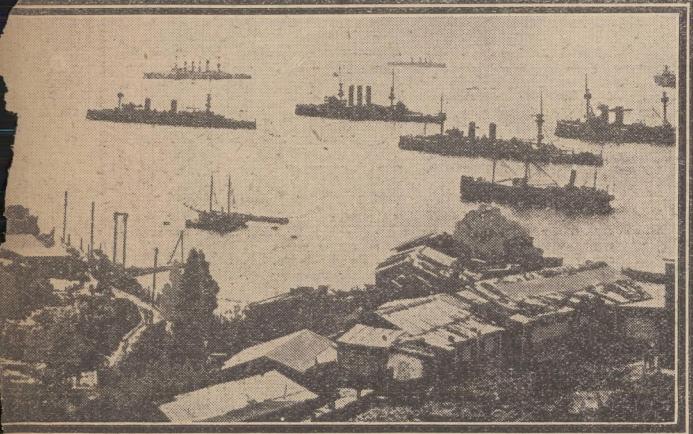
Although it is difficult to realise, these huts in the p

flooded Flanders. Far away across the floods there are

The Germans now admit that they cannot

VON SPEE'S DOOMED FLEET.

9584 X



The doomed German ships in Valparaiso Harbour.

Scharnhorst, the Gneisenau and the Leipzig are on the left of the larger photograph. In the other we see Admiral von Spee.

"IDLE RICH" IN THE MILLIONAIRE'S HOTEL.

91910 W

91910 W

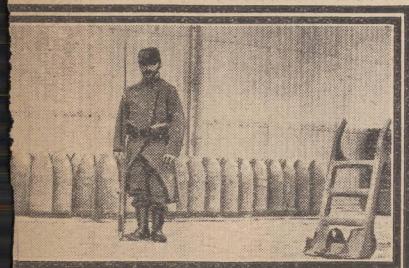


...to read in.

Afternoon tea brought in by the orderly—cigars, too.

Wealthiest men. Our men are naturally enjoying their unusually luxurious surroundings, which are in marked contrast to their quarters in the trenches.

MENTS FOR THE KAISER.



drawn up in a most orderly fashion and look very
parade ground.

NEW GENERAL.



Colonel (Temporary Brigadier-General) Richard C. B. Haking, C.B., who has been promoted to major-general.

A GREAT VIADUCT DESTROYED.

9.11911 Z



This great French railway viaduct had to be blown up during the operations of the war. It is only one of many such structures that French engineers will have to rebuild, with all their natural skill for the work, after the war.

COLONIAL WEDDING.

P. 16415



Major the Rev. R. Steacey, Senior Chaplain of the Canadian Forces, and his bride. She is a daughter of Queensland's Premier.

VICTORIA TO BERLIN.

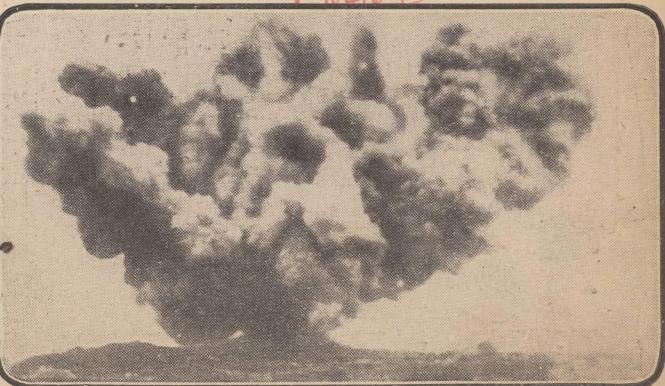
9. 11908 F



New route for the London motor omnibus, but not yet included in the company's official guide. It is Tommy's little joke.

HOW A TWELVE INCH SHELL EXPLODES.

4. 10416 F



This remarkable photograph shows the explosion of a projectile from a 12in. field howitzer during the war. The projectile was fired by one of the Austrian batteries which were afterwards captured by the Russians after a desperate encounter.

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An Exceptional Fur-chase Girl's Smart Yankee Design. Made of Navy Cloth with contrasting Collar, Cuffs and Pinings. Colours of Olive-Green, Plaid, Red, Plaid or Yellow. Fully finished with small buttons. A limited number only.

A Personal Visit is invited.



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chase Girl's	4/11½	
Smart Yankee	5/11½	
Design.	6/11½	

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Post Free in

In Outsize

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<p

December 30, 1914

THIS MORNING'S GOSSIP

at the Nuns Are Doing.

I had a letter yesterday from a friend who is doing Red Cross work—real work, not the amateur kind—not very far behind the fighting line. She tells me all sorts of things that had better not repeat, but she does speak very highly of the work the nuns are doing among the sick and wounded soldiers.

They Would Not Go.

One hospital in Flanders was shelled a few weeks ago. It was in a convent and the fire got so hot that doctors and patients—those of them who could move—were forced to get away as hard as they could. "But the nuns refused to desert their convent-hospital," writes my friend, "and remained to attend to their patients."

Danced with Their Patients.

"These nuns, by the way," she adds, "had never spoken to a man for years and at first were very cold and dignified, but they have ended by dancing with them to the gramophone." They are doing their work with magnificent determination.

A Friendly Discussion.

The other day, this same correspondent tells me, a German officer threw into the French trenches a note addressed to the officer in command, saying: "Come over to us, ours is a good Government and it is foolish to fight us. We are better prepared and equipped than you, and ours is a happier country to live in." The Frenchmen replied with another which read: "No. You come and try Government. You will like it. We are satisfied, only sorry to have to keep on killing you. Be well advised and come over."

Thought They'd Try It.

To this the Germans replied with the brief message: "Don't fire for ten minutes, we are discussing your proposition." Ten minutes later a couple of hundred German officers and men surrendered. My friend adds that this story is entirely credited by those around her, some of whom claim actually to have taken part in the negotiations.

Molly-Coddle Taxi Men.

What a miserable show the London taxi driver made compared with his weather-beaten old predecessors during Monday night's gale. I never knew the storm that would drive the old horse cab drivers off the streets, but Monday night's brief "blizzard" sent the taxi men scooting home like rabbits and left a long-suffering public without that service of cabs to which it is entitled when it most needed it.

Who Is the Servant?

One friend of mine was at West Kensington in the early hours of yesterday morning, and he wanted to get to Maida Vale. After spending half an-hour whistling and shouting at passing taxicabs, two drivers who did him the honour of pulling up refused to go to Maida Vale at all, and gave no reason for their refusal. The third dictated his own terms before taking him, and he paid 10s. for a journey for which the clock ticked up only 3s. 2d.

Time Someone Enforced the Rules.

The old-time "cabby" was a fine old brigand, but in emergencies he stood by you and earned his money. The taxi men who did face the weather tried the brigand rôle quickly enough, but most of them preferred to be molly-coddles. And it is not only in bad weather that the molly-coddle shows in the new style "cabby." On Christmas Day, particularly in the evening, hardly a cab was to be found. On one rank I use frequently not a cab appeared all day. Modern "cabby" is making too much money or is getting too gentle or something. Anyhow, the cab service is supposed to exist for the benefit of the public. Isn't it time that the authorities saw to it that an efficient service was enforced?

Those Doors.

And talking of taxis, will there ever arise a genius who can make a taxicab door or window to open and close easily? Or is the unwilling door a device of the driver's to ensure that nobody may escape quickly from the cab without paying a fare?

Presledojouszcz!

One of my Russian friends announced cheerfully to me yesterday that the Grand Duke Nicholas' army was presledojouszcz! Germans. I said I was surprised that

the Russians had not yet

crossed the border.

It is now

the 25th of December.

Wednesday, December 30, 1911.

The Daily Mirror

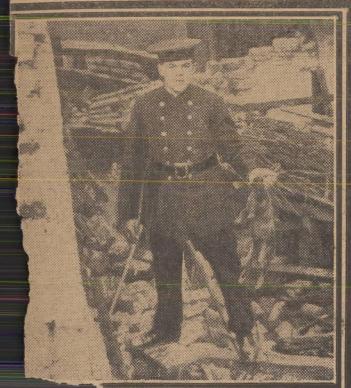
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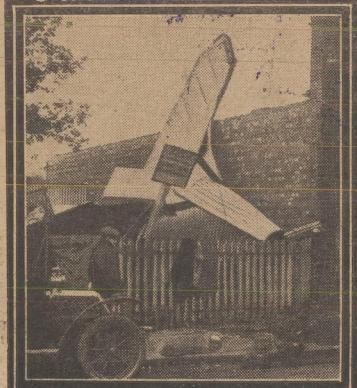
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IN THE TRACK OF THE GREAT GALE.



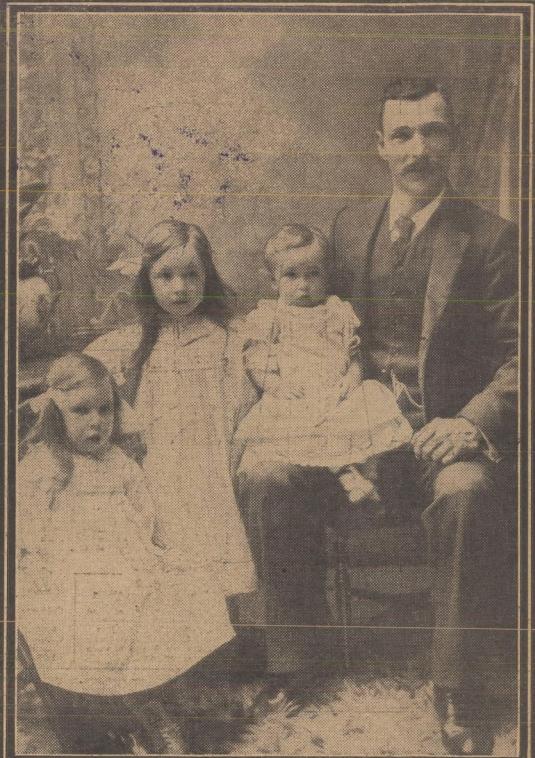
91331F
Rabbits were rescued from the ruins at Clapham.



91331F
The iron roof was torn off a store at Farnborough.

HOUSES WRECKED BY BLIZZARD.

T. 16821



Mr. E. Wakley and his three children, who had a narrow escape from a house wrecked by the storm. Mr. Wakley is injured.

91331F
Three men were drowned when the Nulli Secundus, a fishing boat, struck Southend Pier.



916821
The remains of a marquee at Farnborough.

Wrecked houses at Clapham.
extraordinary gale swept suddenly over the country on Monday night. Round past it carried with it a record of rapid destruction, and even in the suburbs of it blew with a velocity of forty miles an hour. Many cottages were wrecked and was blown down in Farnborough, and the name

"Daily Mirror" was



Mr. Albert Wakley.

Wrecked houses at Clapham.

of Wakley buried in the debris of a wrecked kitchen. The three children had just gone to bed, and had narrow escapes. Mr. Albert Wakley (seen in the circle) was killed. At Farnborough a huge marquee, in which about 2,000 soldiers had just previously had supper, was completely wrecked.—(Daily Mirror photographs.)